

FREE

WYMONDHAM Magazine

ISSUE 59 | MARCH 2022

*The free magazine showcasing what's
on in Wymondham, in association with
Wymondham Town Council*



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Welcome to March's issue of *Wymondham Magazine*, which starts with the sad news that one of our columnists, Owen James of *Tales From The Potting Shed*, has recently passed away (see right). We send our condolences to his family and friends. As spring begins to spring once more, we have the news that Wymondham in Bloom is back for 2022, bigger and better than ever to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and the wonderful Open Gardens event will also return after a Covid-enforced four-year break in June. There is plenty to look forward to, and though next issue will be my last, hopefully *Wymondham Magazine* will remain here to champion it!

Kate, Editor

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FAREWELL TO A TRUE NORFOLK CHARACTER

Wymondham Magazine is sad to announce that Owen James, our wonderful story teller from *The Potting Shed*, has sadly left us. He passed away peacefully at the NNUH on Valentine's Day, aged 96, after suffering a stroke.

He was the much loved father of Annette, father-in-law to Julian, and uncle to Lorraine and Sharon. Annette says: "My Dad was a true Norfolk character who was both a gentleman and a gentle man. He was born in Bunwell and lived there for all but the last three and a half years of his life when he moved to Robert Kett Court in Wymondham; a place he was very happy to be in his last years and where he became a popular resident who will be missed greatly by the staff. He hardly ever left Norfolk and had a great passion for the county's countryside, its wildlife, its people and its way of life. His was not a rich family and he knew privation growing up, but he was incredibly contented and happy with his lot and never craved material things.

"His working life saw him employed as a shepherd, a farm labourer, a postman, a vermin destroyer, a general handyman... even a gravedigger! What he lacked in formal education he made up for with a natural wit and innate intelligence. He was at his happiest when tending his garden growing flowers and vegetables, out with his gun - often poaching - or getting involved in local life as Chair of the Parish Council, Chair of the Primary School Governors and Chair of the Village Hall Committee. He was immensely proud of the fact that at one point he held all three positions simultaneously. He was a very popular Bunwell resident and the many tributes received by the family consistently describe him as a legend, a wonderful man, and a real Norfolk character. His is a way of rural life that is fast disappearing and for many his passing signifies the end of an era.



"The Potting Shed's door is now temporarily closed. I say temporarily because I have a couple more tales left that I can write up and share in the future. I hope, one day, to get his stories published as a book. He loved dictating these tales and, particularly during Covid, the task gave us both a focus and made our relationship even closer than it already was. The memories he gave me and the stories he told you, his audience, will last and have created a very special legacy.

"I could not have wished for a better father. Until we meet again Dad, moined 'ow yer go."

The funeral will take place at Breckland Crematorium on Wednesday 16th March at 11am - all welcome.

RIP Owen Stewart James: 6th September 1925 - 14th February 2022



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2022 BUSINESS AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Finalists for the 2022 Broadland & South Norfolk Business Awards have been announced, and include four businesses based in Wymondham.

Wymondham Alpacas has been nominated for best Visitor Experience, their neighbours Centre Paws Pet Spa feature as Working Together finalists, and in the running for South Norfolk Retailer of the Year are the Little Boutique on Fairland Street and Wymondham Garden Centre.

Organised by South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council, the awards celebrate the excellence, innovation and best practice shown by businesses across the combined area.

South Norfolk Council's Cabinet Member for Stronger Economy, Councillor Lisa Neal, said: "This has been an extremely challenging time for local businesses and these awards are an excellent



opportunity to celebrate the hard work and commitment it has taken to run a successful business through the pandemic."

The awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday 23rd March at Norwich City Football Club. Best of luck to all the finalists!

COMMUNITY BOOK FOR 2022: THE NIGHT OF THE FLOOD

By Tracy Kenny

Since 2019 Kett's Books has chosen a book every year to be our One Community, One Book choice. It's a bit like a town-wide, year-long book group, where everyone gets a chance to read the same book.

The project started when we lost a dear friend and one of our original volunteers, Geoff Kirk. When we reflected on our friendship, we realised that the joy of talking together about books is something that has helped form our community.

We wanted to offer that experience to everyone, especially those that don't find reading or choosing books comes naturally. By narrowing the choice down to one book, and sticking with that one for a year, many people in the town can become familiar with the idea – even being able to say that you've heard of a book is a way to join a conversation.

This year we're thrilled to have chosen a book that really does seem to have something for everyone. *The Night of the Flood* by Zoe Somerville is about the devastating floods that hit the North Norfolk coast in 1953. Set in the familiar

setting of Wells, there's post-war tension, murder, espionage, love triangles, coming of age – all our readers so far have loved it.

On Friday 25th March we will be holding our first event with the author at Wymondham Baptist Church at 7pm. Please ring 01953 603663 to reserve your ticket ahead. Tickets are £8.99 and include a copy of the book.

Kett's Books is an independent community bookshop run by volunteers. We saved the shop from closing in 2014, and we've been working with the people and schools of Wymondham ever since, promoting reading and the benefits of working together.



Wymondham to Bloom again

The Wymondham in Bloom team have been busy working on plans for a spectacular display of flowers and greenery in the town centre this summer. Already they have secured funding through Wymondham Town Council to again support local businesses in creating their displays on shop fronts throughout the town.

Not only will businesses be invited to use their displays to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, but also the Town Council's flower planters will have a red, white, blue and silver design. Wymondham in Bloom volunteers have worked together with local garden designer Lesley Anne Clarke to create a planting plan for the black plastic tub planters. The team are keen to include a decent proportion of perennials in the mix, to have a more sustainable scheme lasting well beyond this summer.



Wymondham in Bloom 2022 also hopes to expand public participation. The popular sunflower growing competition will be repeated and a new home frontage competition will be announced soon.

Working together with Greening Wymondham, the Bloomers will support the launch of 'Wymondham Growing Together'. The project aims to find unused bits of land where locals can grow vegetables and herbs communally. It should be especially impactful to those residents who do not have a garden or allotment but want to have a go at learning to grow edible plants.

The bloomers will travel to Essex in late March to collect the award for the Best Hanging Baskets display category from Anglia in Bloom's 2021 virtual competition. This year's Anglia in Bloom competition will go back to in-person judging, most likely in July. If enough volunteers can be found to help the team, they just might be able to bring home a Gold award this time. All the details will be available on the Wymondham Town Team website as soon as they are finalised.

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FINDING WAYS TO EASE HARDSHIP UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

By Arnie McConnell

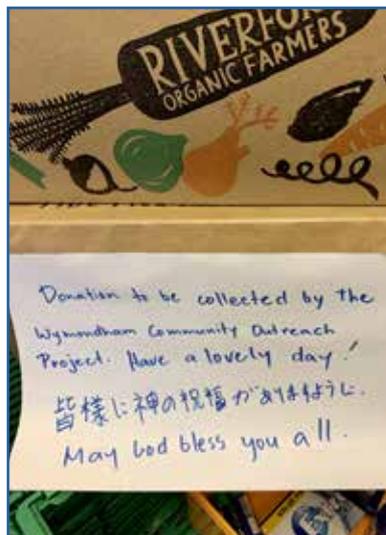
At the Wymondham Community Outreach Project's foodbank, I was totting up the number of food parcels we issued last week - around 125 - when a fellow volunteer said: "Of course, it's nothing to be proud of..."

She was absolutely right: that families and individuals suffer such poverty, whilst living in a rich country like ours, is shaming. At certain moments there can be a deeply ingrained sense of disbelief about the need for us to hand out food parcels. Yet, we hear so many tales of extreme hardship amongst those in our community who - most often reluctantly - are prompted to use our service in Wymondham. The painful and palpable impact of poverty and the level of need is sadly mirrored throughout every town in Britain.



Recently, I was guiding a visitor in how to apply for an online energy voucher. I checked that the gentleman had a smartphone. He replied he didn't. I looked at him quizzically. He then revealed that he had had to sell his phone for cash to feed his electricity meter - which, incidentally, is fixed on a tariff more expensive than most of us are paying. Some days later we discovered that a visitor to our foodbank was about to walk to Norwich to keep his appointment at the Jobcentre. Without a second thought, a volunteer paid for the gentleman's bus fare and something for him to eat.

Afterwards, on my way home, a foodbank visitor stopped me in town to express his gratitude for the support that was afforded to him. He deeply appreciated the friendly and respectful way our volunteers served him. "They are fantastic people!" he declared, and then reflected on his own circumstances: "This is not a life I'm living, it's just an existence." All our volunteers know that a feeling



of worthlessness accompanies poverty; their mission is to ease the effects of poverty and to raise the self-esteem of those seeking help. They do both with distinction.

One of our many long-term supporters often asks me the same question: "If foodbanks didn't exist, where would these people go?" Neither of us have arrived at an agreeable answer.



The strength of the Wymondham Community Outreach Project is that it is staffed by a magnificent team of dedicated volunteers and is vigorously supported by local government services, community groups, local companies, and the good citizens of Wymondham. To access the help we can offer, foodbank vouchers are not required. All a family or individual need do is contact us or visit us to access support. We are a fully inclusive community initiative.



If you would like to donate to ease hardship in our part of Norfolk, the following food items are always popular: tinned meat, tinned fish, long-life milk, tinned soup, tinned rice, tinned fruit, coffee, pasta sauce, dog and cat food, shower gel, shampoo, and conditioner. These items can be left in the donation bin in the entrance area of the Wymondham RC Church, 1 Norwich Road, Wymondham NR18 0QE, from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm.

Our drop-in service is open Saturdays and Tuesdays from 11am to 1pm.

For further information phone 01953 603104 or email community@outreach.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk

BOOK SWAP LIBRARIES UNVEILED IN WYMONDHAM

The latest Little Free Library book swap boxes have been unveiled in Wymondham with the help of volunteer members from The Shed community group.

The boxes, located at North Wymondham Community Centre and at Wymondham Station, were unveiled by Cllrs Suzanne Nuri-Nixon and Annette James, together with Andrew Clarke, Mike Porter and Dave Gilham from The Shed, and Sara White from the North Wymondham Community Centre.

Cllr Nuri-Nixon said "The Shed members used their imagination to create the Little Free Libraries and were awarded funds from the District Member Grant scheme. Sadly due to the pandemic, we weren't able to roll out the other boxes until this week but we hope people will find them an enjoyable way to source books and pass on books they no longer want in return. Both fiction and non-fiction are welcome, whether children or adult books."

The Library based at the Station is especially poignant as it was made by former The Shed member Richard Binding, who sadly passed away in 2019.

Andrew Clarke, who is chair of The Shed, paid tribute to Mr Binding, saying: "Richard was one of our Trustees and a longstanding Shed member. He was always first there on Shed mornings with a cup of tea made for the early bird members. He had great skills and knowledge and he would love to teach



other Shed members. He had the concept, designed and built the Little Book Library box shortly before his passing in February 2019 after a short illness."

The idea of the community Little Free Libraries book boxes is to 'take a book, leave a book' and can be found in countries around the world. Each has their own serial number and can be located on a worldwide map. The first one in Wymondham was unveiled a couple of years ago and is located at the Baptist Church in Queen Street.

Pictured: Andrew Clarke, Dave Gilham and Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon with the Station Little Free Library, made by the late Richard Binding.

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EAT PRAY LOVE - GREENING WYMONDHAM GREET'S SPRING

By Jay Andrews

Despite uncertain weather Greening Wymondham is plotting ahead.

EAT is our hope for growing vegetables wherever is possible over Wymondham. The first project, on a sunny back wall behind The White Hart pub just before the Back Lane carpark, is a large self-watering Vegepod we've bought. It will be filled with peat-free compost, seedlings and seeds.



It's a pilot project called Wymondham Growing Together working with Wymondham in Bloom. We'll be discussing planting plans in April - so please come along and contribute your ideas when a date is set. Planting should start in May with robust

seedlings and fast-growing seeds. The idea is that people should be able to pick a lettuce, radish or herbs for free - the pub won't be using them but landlord Kieran Bullen will be advising.

PRAY is to help get rid of Himalayam Balsam along our rivers and in our gardens. It's yet another beautiful invasive species brought to Britain in the 19th century. Unfortunately it spreads fast and leaves river banks bare as it dies back, making life increasingly hard for little owls, voles and other riparian mammals and plants.

In March we'll be carrying out a basic survey on the Tiffey downstream of Becketswell Bridge to Chapel Lane Bridge. With the help of Norfolk Rivers Trust we may be able to halt its spread.

Now is not the time to spot them since they've died back, but come June please email us if you've seen any - if you can safely, lop the flowers off before they seed.

As for LOVE - it's all the green spaces around Wymondham and the town's parks and pathways. Rothbury Park (pictured) is a surprisingly large park just outside the centre of Wymondham. It could be lovelier, friendlier and much, much greener. The public will be consulted, but if you have any ideas already, email us at greening.wymondham@gmail.com. And do search us out on Facebook.



GORILLAS TOPIC AT NEXT NATURE GROUP MEETING

Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG), the local members' group of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, resumes its programme of indoor talks at Town Green Community Centre (next to Wymondham Methodist Church) on Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm, with an illustrated talk by Mike Harvey on Ugandan Mountain Gorillas.

Mike will be speaking about a trip made with his son in 2018 to Kidepo National Park in the north of Uganda near the border with south Sudan, a location rarely visited by Europeans, and a trip on the same visit to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, where there are several gorilla groups. Mike and his son also saw several other animals and interesting birds.

The group is looking forward to welcoming members and friends to its 2022 programme of meetings. The meeting room will be well ventilated and hand sanitiser will be available. Wearing of face coverings/masks is up to the individual. All welcome - admission £2. For further details contact Ann Carpenter on 01508 488337.

Photo by Mike Harvey



ENGLAND RUGBY MASTERS TOUCH DOWN AT WYMONDHAM

Staying fit past 50 is a tough challenge for most of us - but how about doing it by training for the next Rugby World Cup? That's what a squad of some of England Rugby's oldest players did at a training camp held at Wymondham RFC.

Their version of the game is Touch rugby and the players were all members of England's over-50s - or Masters - squad getting ready for this summer's European Championships and a World Cup in 2024.

"It's an extremely fast-paced, skilful game at this level and players have to be real athletes," explained Andy Sharpes, head coach of the Masters. "And this lot are - we have to be careful with injuries and recovery time, but fitness levels have to be really good. Games last 40 minutes and we can play back-to-back fixtures so there's no hiding place."

Touch rugby is a form of the sport stripped of tackles and bruising contact - instead players have to evade opponents using speed, agility and accurate passing.

It is the first time that England Touch has fielded an over-50s squad, though several of the players represented Great Britain at the last World Cup in Kuala Lumpur three years ago.

Three members of the squad are from Norfolk - Andy Verney, Iain Grisewood and Neil Davies. All sights now are fixed on the European Championships in Nottingham in August, followed by the next World Cup in two years' time.

Andy Sharpes said: "We're ambitious to win the Euros. It's been tough under Covid to keep things going but we've managed really well and now we're back together training we're able to concentrate on detailed preparation."

Wymondham RFC have their own mixed touch squad and are encouraging new players to join. Touch captain Andy Verney said: "Touch is such a great game not just for old rugby hands but for people who've never played the sport at all.

"It's incredibly simple and social - and great fun to play. We've got mixed teams of men and women and because there's no

contact players of all ages and experience can join in."

The Wymondham Touch players train on Thursday evenings and play games on Saturday afternoons. Anyone who is interested in finding out more can email touch@wymondhamrfc.com or check out the England Touch website at www.Englandtouch.org.uk



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM ON CUSP OF PROMOTION

The Women's team at Wymondham Town FC have continued to dominate the Eastern Region Women's Football League and are now just one point away from making history by winning the league and gaining promotion to the National League.

To start off 2022, Wymondham hosted local rivals Kings Lynn Town at Ketts Park and took all three points with a 4-1 win thanks to goals from Hannah Waters (x2), Becca Russell and Kyla Love and a captain's performance from Rachel Cossey to pick up player of the match.

The team's attention turned to the Norfolk Women's County Cup with an away trip to local side Thetford Town. With the scores 1-1 at half-time, Wymondham showed their quality in the second half, adding five goals to win the game 6-1. Second half substitute Fran Catchpole picked up player of the match with an 18 minute hat-trick. This win has secured Wymondham an away trip to Dussingdale in the semi-final. Wymondham are now the highest ranked team left in the competition after Norwich City were knocked out on penalties.

Wymondham next faced a long away trip to London to face Haringey Borough. Despite going behind, Wymondham responded instantly to equalise direct from the kick-off. However, a tough contest saw Haringey Borough lead 2-1 at half time. Wymondham came out determined in the second half and turned the game around to win 3-2 thanks to goals from Cossey and Waters, with Waters' goal also being voted goal of the month for January. >



> The next challenge was another away trip, this time to Colney Heath. Katie Knights picked up player of the match in a game where Wymondham were in control and could have been a couple of goals ahead had it not been for the woodwork. However, mid-way through the second half, a dangerous ball into the box from Chelsea Clarke was helped on its way into the net by a defender. An important goal that ensured Wymondham picked up all three points.

Back at home in the league, Wymondham faced Royston in a top of the table clash that would have a big impact on the season of both teams. Wymondham came out very strongly and scored in the second and sixth minutes thanks to finishes from Laura Nicholls and Clarke. Wymondham continued to press from the front and made it difficult for Royston. The Wymondham defence dealt with the Royston attacks, with Lauren Kett being awarded player of the match. The game ended 2-0 and as a result, leaving Wymondham only needing one more point to guarantee the league title.

Wymondham progressed in the League Cup the following week with a convincing 5-1 win over Cheshunt to set up a ¼ final home tie with Royston. Love picked up player of the match in a game that saw her score her fourth goal in as many games since her recent signing.

Off the pitch, Wymondham have continued to build and have added FA qualified coach, Ollie Sadd, to the coaching team. Ollie is an excellent addition and will work with the existing coaches and management at the club.



Due to the success of the team this season, manager Alex Guy was a guest on Radio Norfolk to discuss the progress of the team both on and off the pitch. As part of this interview with Nick Bowler, Alex shared the news that the club are re-establishing a development team that will support younger players making the step into adult football and provide a platform for players to develop and challenge themselves. More details of the new team will be announced soon via the clubs social media (@WymondhamLadies).

Photo by Neil Dady

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MID NORFOLK RAILWAY UPDATES PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2022

The Mid Norfolk Railway is updating its full programme of events for 2022. The main events - including a proposed Steam and Diesel Gala - remain, however the railway will now reopen on Sunday 27th March.

The reopening will coincide with Mothers' Day and will feature the railway's resident BR Standard class 4 MT steam locomotive 80078 and the BR maroon liveried vacuum braked coaches. Tickets will be on sale both via the Mid Norfolk Railway website and on the day from both Dereham and Wymondham Abbey Station. Last year's popular Kids Go Free group tickets have been retained, so the opening running day is intended as a family day at the railway enjoying the sight and sound of a working steam locomotive.



Following reopening April will see a mixture of Steam and Diesel Multiple Unit running days until Sunday 24th April, which will feature the first Diesel Engine hauled train timetable of the year.

The railway has carried out a number of engineering tasks and developments during the closure. Work

includes the resignalling of Dereham station and yard, which will mean the sight of operational semaphore signals once again for the first time since 1969. The resignalling is especially important as it increases the capacity of the station and is a precursor to the eventual reopening of the line north to full passenger service.

Other work has included work on Crownthorpe Bridge weigh beam works, lineside flailing and sleeper renewal together with the fitting of new timbers and point motors at Dereham station and maintenance of the platform at Wymondham Abbey.

George Saville, General Manager of the Mid Norfolk Railway, said: "This time of the year, when the railway is closed to public running, is so important as it means the railway gets the essential maintenance and development work that keeps us going done but also hopefully makes the railway better each year. It is hard work and I would like to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their efforts and to issue a general invitation to come and join the team. There are many roles not all directly railway related that need doing and we always need more people to help run the Mid Norfolk Railway."

MNR beats Storm Eunice as the former Spooner Row signal box begins new life

The Mid Norfolk Railway and its specialist haulier contractor David Watson Transport have successfully moved the former Network Rail Signal Box from Spooner Row to its new home at Wymondham Abbey station, despite Storm Eunice.

Now that the box has arrived, the railway is relaunching a public appeal to raise £12,000 to fund the transportation and



refurbishment. Currently the appeal stands at £7,500, and donations can be made via www.midnorfolkrailway.co.uk/donations

The box had been identified by Network Rail as being available to be gifted to the Mid Norfolk Railway, but had until now not been able to be transported from its existing location at Spooner Row. The box was initially removed from the mainline during a weekend long line closure that began on 3rd September. >

Wymondham Helicopter Group
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> The box was then stored at Spooner Row playing fields. The wooden top half of the box has now joined the new brick base that has been built next to the Level Crossing at the Wymondham Abbey station site.

The transport of the Signal box has been made possible due to generous donations to the Mid Norfolk Railway public fundraising appeal, together with a Wymondham Town Council grant and also grants from South Norfolk District Councillors Robert Savage and Kevin Hurn.

Richard Pike, volunteer head of the Mid Norfolk Railway's Signalling and Telegraph department, said: "This is a very important day for the railway, we knew this box would come to us for reuse and it has been a long wait, but we have been patient and we are extremely grateful to Network Rail for facilitating this important addition to the railway. The hard work now begins however as first the box is restored and then my team can install the mechanisms that will be needed to allow the box to return to being a functioning box once again."

The Signal Box base has previously been constructed by volunteers and has been a familiar site to visitors for many years. Charlie Robinson, the Chairman of the Mid Norfolk Railway said: "The arrival of the Signal Box from Spooner Row marks the first step in the development of the Wymondham end of the railway that will in due course see a new station at Wymondham Abbey.

"This new station is critically important to the long term future of the railway as it seeks to develop its commercial activities and also build strong links with the local community in the town and surrounding area."

MORLEY FESTIVAL RETURNS

Morley Beer Festival & Family Fun Day is back for 2022. The festival, voted in the top 10 in the East Anglian Festival Network Awards, celebrates Norfolk beer, music and arts and is taking place from Friday 24th to Saturday 25th June.

This is the eighth year the festival has been held, with all profits going to Norfolk charities. This year Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and young adults in Norfolk, and Morley Village & Sports Hall, a local community venue, will be the beneficiaries.

Advance weekend tickets cost £20 (plus booking fee), with under 16's free, from www.morleyfestivalnorfolk.co.uk



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Next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you!

The 'pre-submission consultation' on the first draft of the Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan came to an end a few weeks ago. The Neighbourhood Plan Team are now reviewing the comments received and amending the document to reflect your feedback. Thank you to everyone who took the time to review the Plan and provide comments.

Next steps

Once the Plan has been updated it will be submitted to South Norfolk Council who will largely lead on the process of making the Plan from there onwards. The next immediate step will be for South Norfolk Council to seek Cabinet approval that the submitted documents meet the legal and procedural requirements. After that they will undertake a further process of public consultation (the "Regulation 16 consultation"). Following this, South Norfolk Council will appoint an independent Examiner to inspect the Plan. South Norfolk Council's Cabinet will then decide whether or not it agrees with the Examiners recommendations and whether the Plan can proceed to a referendum. If so, South Norfolk Council has 56 working days within which to hold a referendum. Watch this space for further information on these next steps and how to get involved.

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood Planning is a new community-led planning initiative that has emerged from the Localism Act. It gives local people new rights to help shape the development of the communities they live in. Neighbourhood Plans allow communities to set out planning policies on the development and use of land in the 'neighbourhood area' which in Wymondham's case is the civil parish.



Any policies included within a Neighbourhood Plan need to conform to strategic planning policies and guidance at the local and national level; this means that it cannot be used as a mechanism to undermine established planning policies or planning permissions. But local neighbourhood plans can be used to provide additional detail and guidance on issues that cannot be addressed in more strategic documents.

New cemetery

The Town Council has been actively seeking a new Cemetery site for several years as the existing facility on Cemetery Lane is coming to the end of its life. Following negotiations with developer Lovells a new site has been identified on the B1172 next door to their development between London Road and Sutton Lane to the west of the town. A specialist company 'Cemetery Development Services' has been appointed to design a new facility and to obtain planning permission from South Norfolk Council. A working group consisting of five Councillors has been established to oversee the work on behalf of the Town Council.

Meeting dates – Council and Committees

The Town Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month with the Finance & General Purposes and the Leisure Environment Enterprise & Tourism Committees meeting on the third Tuesday, during alternative months. Planning applications are dealt with by the Planning, Lighting & Highways committee which meets on

both the first and third Tuesdays monthly. Dates until June 2022 are set out below. The complete list is available on the Town Council's website with agenda being published seven days before the event giving starting times.

March

- 1st Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council
- 15h Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Leisure Environment Enterprise & Tourism

April

- 5th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council
- 19th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Finance and General Purposes

May

- 3rd Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council
- 17th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Leisure Environment Enterprise & Tourism

June

- 7th Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Town Council
- 21st Planning Lighting & Highways followed by Finance and General Purposes

Memorial bench

Wymondham Town Council has installed a bench on Market Street as a memorial to the hard work and dedication of our key service workers over the last two years and those who passed away.

The plaque reads:

Wymondham Town Council have installed this bench to celebrate the contribution of key workers, and to remember those who sadly lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Who are your councillors?

As a result of the elections in May 2019, and subsequent by-elections, the following have been elected to serve until the next Local Government elections in May 2023 (May 2025 for County Councillors), representing Wymondham on the county (NCC), district (SNC) and/or town councils.

Central

Mr R Elliott	07733002897	richard@topbarnnorfolk.co.uk	WTC
Mr R Savage	01953 603722	robert.savage@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	WTC, SNC
Mr K Hurn	01953 798492	kevin.hurn.kh@gmail.com	WTC, SNC
Mr I Flatt	01953 603398	ianorchardflatt@hotmail.com	WTC
Ms K Carsok	07941 514766	kcarsok@gmail.com	WTC

East

Mr P Broome	01953 600829	pbroome.309@gmail.com	WTC
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North

Mrs Y Astley	07912 628095	yvette.astley72@gmail.com	WTC
Mr A Holden	01953 857316	tholden88@yahoo.com	WTC, SNC
Mr J Murrell	07504 695203	jordimurrell@hotmail.co.uk	WTC
Miss P Hubble	01953 604113	pennylibdem@gmail.com	WTC
Mrs K Cross	01953 606996	cllrkatheryncross@gmail.com	WTC
J Hornby	07778 385913	cllrjhornby@gmail.com	SNC

South

Mr J Halls	01953 600720	julian.halls@talktalk.net	WTC, SNC
Mrs A James	01953 605554	annettelibdem@gmail.com	WTC
Mrs S Nuri-Nixon	01953 601108	suzannelibdem@gmail.com	WTC, SNC

County councillors

Wymondham

Mr R Savage	01953 603722	robert.savage@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk	NCC
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Forehoe

D Elmer	07575 578972	daniel.elmer.cllr@norfolk.gov	NCC
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LETTER FROM WYMONDHAM ABBEY

The following letter was sent to us by the team at Wymondham Abbey in response to recent criticism in the press and on social media...

The Abbey team wish to thank you Wymondham for the appreciative comments and emails regarding the developments in the churchyard, the pop-up café, the Christmas services and the "beautiful and peaceful" atmosphere in the church.

Believe it or not, there are those who don't like the lights, the willow wigwam, the tables, the spiral or even the flowers. Some are not happy that we are encouraging people to walk wherever they wish in the church grounds. In fact, we have had a constant stream of complaints albeit from a very small number of people, some of whom have seen fit to involve the Diocese of Norwich and the Bishop.

We have made changes, of course. Making the churchyard a more welcoming place for all was, in part, a response to Covid which, for a while, prevented people entering the building. This Christmas though, it was great to welcome around 600 people to church during the Christmas period and, since re-opening for services after the initial lockdown, we have been pleased to welcome members of the congregation returning to the Abbey as well as a considerable number of newcomers.

The people who complain, quite wrongly, that the church is never open tend to be those who have rarely come to church and are not planning to do so or to volunteer.

Some of you may recall that the café, the initiative of a member of the congregation, was first set up in the church grounds in the summer of 2020, when Covid was still

restricting social gatherings indoors. The idea was to help combat loneliness and to cheer people up. Our café moved into the church extension as soon as possible and, as more volunteers have been coming forward, so we have been able to open the café more often i.e. on Friday, Saturday and Monday. You may come to enjoy a hot drink and company and to visit the church to pray and light a candle.

We are in the church most days and, if anyone asks to look around while we are there, we invite them in. As more people volunteer to help, so we shall enjoy opening the building even more.

Despite the harassment we are suffering, we shall continue to encourage everyone to come and experience and enjoy the opportunities for peace and reflection in the church and the churchyard.

Our best wishes to everyone in Wymondham.



WYMONDHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT PREVIEW

By Adrienne Cleary (President)

Wymondham Symphony Orchestra Concert, 'A French Connection', will be held on Saturday 2nd April from 7.30pm in Central Hall.

At last, with great excitement, the orchestra is back in full. Following our very successful concert to an invited audience last November, we are rehearsing for our first ticketed public concert in two years. The music selected is of a particularly colourful instrumentation, rich in harmony and vibrant in rhythm written by three wonderful French composers and we can't wait to perform it to our audience.

We begin with *The Roman Carnival Overture* by Berlioz. This

is one of his most popular pieces scored for a large orchestra and features a prominent and famous solo for the cor anglais. It is brilliantly orchestrated and of a most extrovert nature. This is followed by the *Sylvia Suite* by Delibes, a typical classical ballet suite but with a remarkable score, varied and rich with pronounced use of brass and wind instruments, including an alto saxophone and harp.

Tchaikovsky who had written *Swan Lake* just before *Sylvia* was first performed preferred it to his own work, calling his own masterpiece, "poor stuff in comparison."

The final work is *Symphony in D minor* by César Franck. This is his best known work and unusual in being in three movements instead of the usual four. The score calls for two flutes, two oboes, cor anglais, two soprano clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, four horns, two cornets, two trumpets, three trombones, tuba, three timpani, harp and strings. It has a particularly haunting melody in the second movement played by the cor anglais above plucked harp and strings.

We are looking forward to seeing you all. Tickets are available through our website wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk at a cost of £12 (£10 Friends of the WSO) and children are free.

In brief...

NEW ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORE

Leeders Animal Supplies Ltd has opened a new pet and equine premises in Wymondham on Philip Ford Way behind the new Co-op. Pooches welcome!



NEW SATURDAY KIDS' ART CLASS

stART Studio is starting a new set of six fun workshops for children aged 11+ from lino to oil painting, every Saturday from 10am to 12noon. Book online at www.start-studio.co.uk

SPORTS BAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Wymondham Sports Bar is celebrating its five year anniversary with a party on Saturday 5th March from 9pm, with an optional fancy dress theme and a cash prize for the best dressed!

HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS

With energy prices set to soar, the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership, led by Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils, is providing heating and insulation grants to help people keep warm this winter. A range of measures are available to residents struggling to heat their homes with an EPC rating of E, F or G and where the total household income is £30,000 or less. Landlords can also apply for grants to contribute to their property upgrades to help their low-income tenants save energy and money. To find out if you are eligible and to make an application contact Norfolk Warm Homes on 01603 430103 or visit www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk

BIG C CRAFT EVENTS

The Big C Furniture and Craft Shop at 2 - 4 Allenbrooks Way is holding a couple of pop-up craft sales in the coming weeks. On Saturday 19th March from 10am to 4pm will be lots of Mother's Day gift ideas, and get inspired for Easter with another event on Saturday 9th April. The shop is also planning regular 'Make, Meet and Mardle' craft sessions.

GARDEN CLUB TALK

On Monday 21st March, Wymondham Garden Club will be hosting a talk on 'Gardens for Us and Them' by Dr Ian Bedford, formerly head entomologist (insect expert) of the John Innes Centre. Starting at 7.30pm in the Town Green Centre, members go free and guests are £4. For further information about the club contact wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

FREE EASTER ACTIVITIES

Bookings are now open for The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, a programme of free activities that will run over the Easter holidays for five to 16-year-olds across Norfolk. Visit www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun

SIGNS OF SPRING

Residents of Windmill House recently took part in a Signs of Spring walking group, looking out for spring flowers through King's Meadow park.



CAFE REOPEN

The Waitrose Cafe has now reopened, and features a display of art by its talented team of staff.



ROTARY SATELLITE GROUP DATES

Dates for your diary from Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group:

Monday 7th March to Monday 25th April - The Wymondham Rotary Challenge, eight challenges to complete over eight weeks, photography, art, quizzes and much more. Open to everyone and there will be prizes!

Tuesday 15th March - The next 100 Club draw, 1st prize £100. Have you got your ticket yet? Costs just £2 per month.

Friday 6th May - The next Rotary Quiz Night at Central Hall. Full details available soon.

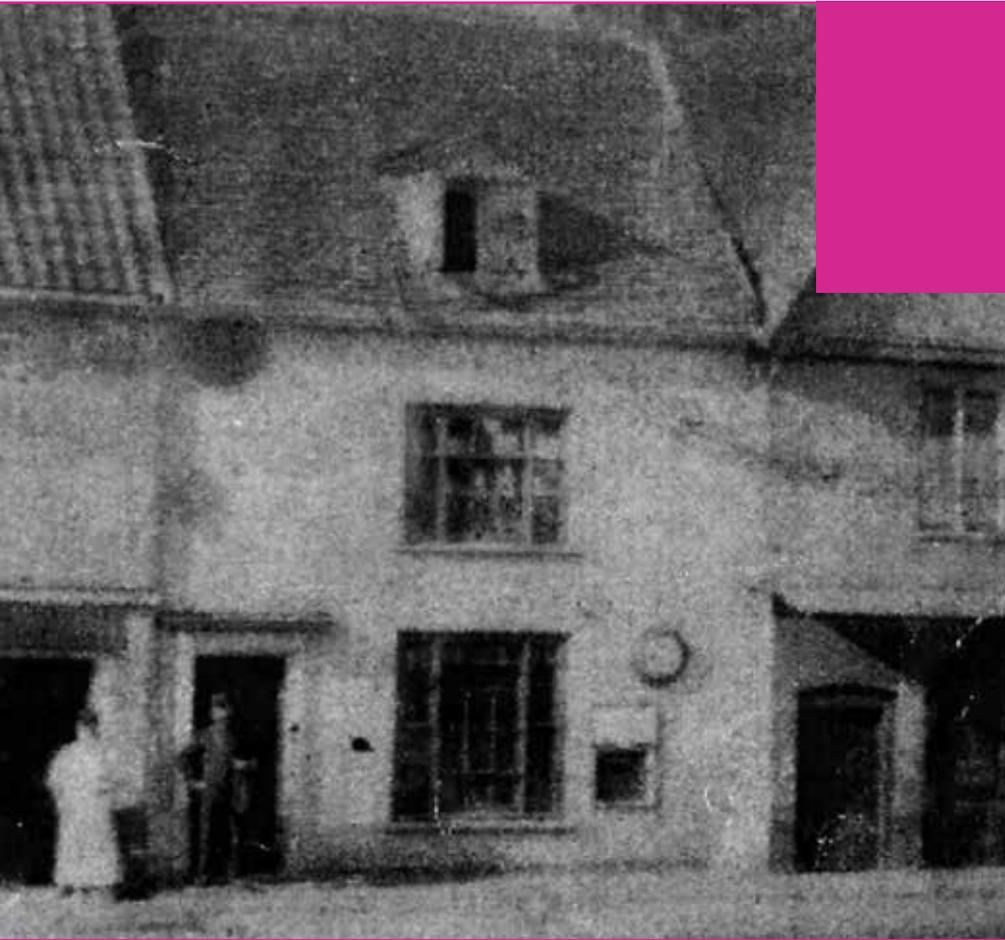
Sunday 26th June - Wymondham Food and Drink Festival, 40 stalls in Wymondham Town Centre.

Details of all of these events can be found at www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=502306&ClubID=511 or on Facebook.

OPEN GARDENS RETURNS

After a four-year hiatus due to Covid, the biennial Wymondham Open Gardens event returns this summer on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June from 1pm to 5pm. Programmes (£5) will be on sale in early May from local retailers, including Wymondham Garden Centre, The Marmalade Tree, George Reeves, the Tourist Information Office (Market Cross) and Wymondham Heritage Museum. If you are interested in entering your garden, contact Diane at publications@thewhs.org.uk



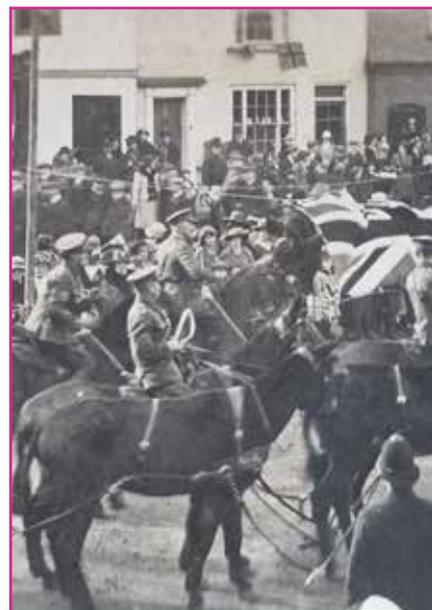


A SHOP through time...

education she became a school teacher, teaching in Wellington in Somerset in 1851. On June 13th 1854 at Wymondham Abbey she married Samuel Tolver Postle, a gentleman farmer 28 years her senior from Browick. They moved to Repps and once Samuel retired, moved to Hingham where Sarah returned to being a school mistress. Samuel died in 1876 and Sarah returned to Wymondham, where she is listed as a ladies teacher before becoming the Postmistress.

The house at the Post Office Sarah lived in was named Postle House, probably in memory of her late husband, and the house name remained in use until the mid 20th century. Sarah died early in 1900 aged 76 years.

As well as a Post Office, it was a Money Order and Telegraph Office. In 1888 telegraph business could be transacted between 8am and 8pm Mondays to Saturdays and 8am to 10pm on Sundays. Money orders were issued and paid from 9am to 6pm and stamps sold from 9am to 9pm. Letters were received and dispatched by both night and day mail from and to London, Norwich, Yarmouth and Lowestoft at selected times throughout each day. Letters could be received until 10pm with an extra halfpenny stamp attached. Quite a service! >



The small but perfectly styled Mad Hatters Tea Shop at 14 Market Place has an eclectic history to tell over the last few hundred years.

The town was severely damaged by the Great Fire of 1615, with many buildings in town destroyed including the original Market Cross. The property dates from the early 17th century and was most likely built after 1615, replacing a fire-damaged structure. It has a timber frame and had many original features and beams inside. Some of the buildings built after the fire used salvaged timber from the fire itself.

I have been able to research residents and businesses back to 1841. Before then it was probably a small dwelling and at times home to a shop or trade, as it has been since.

In 1841 the cottage was occupied by Catherine Wright, who was 70. She was a draper, and also living there was another Catherine Wright, possibly her daughter, aged 30. I have been unable to establish yet whether the premises was in use as a drapers or was their home at this time. They did have a domestic servant, Harriet Cann, age 15.

The 1851 census records that the

property was unoccupied at that time, but by 1861 agricultural labourer William Reeve and wife Mary were living in the house. They were 58 and 50 years respectively, and had two children - Harriet aged eight and John aged six.

From the mid 1860s to early 1870s Samuel Barrett and family were living at the house. His wife was Julia, and in 1871 his children were Hannah 9, Henry 7 and Jessie 2. They employed a general servant, Harriet Blazey, a very young 13 years old. Samuel was a Police Superintendent and the Inspector of Weights and Measures for Wymondham.

Wymondham's Post Office opened here in the late 1870s. The property was purposely converted for postal services, with a large clock and letter box added to the front. Mrs Sarah Harriet Postle moved into the property and became the Postmistress. The 1881 census records her daughters Elizabeth aged 25 and Sarah aged 17 living there too, along with servant Pamela Moore aged 18. In 1891 their servant was Lucy Miller, age 16.

Sarah Postle was born in 1824 to Caudell Clarke, a solicitors managing clerk of Vicar Street. Her mother was Harriet. Following completion of her

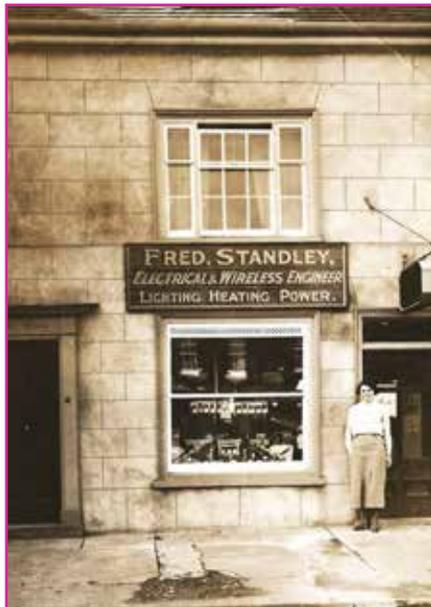
A SHOP THROUGH TIME, continued...

> In 1896, the Post Office relocated to Market Street, roughly where Savers stands today, before moving again in 1940 to Middleton Street.



Next the little Post Office became a greengrocers run by William and Amelia Clarke and one of their sons, Alfred. The Clarkes lived in Market Street in the late 1880s and 1890s. As well as being a greengrocers, William was a carpenter. By 1901 they had moved to Market Place and converted the premises into their new greengrocers shop.

William died in July 1919 but Amelia and Alfred kept their little shop open, which had a window that opened revealing a sloping display shelf full of goods. Amelia passed away in early 1934 and the greengrocers closed.



The next occupant was Fred Standley, who opened his radio and electrical engineer business in the shop in 1934. Fred Standley was born on 9th May 1908 to parents Thomas and Alice. Fred joined the Royal Navy in 1924, training at HMS Ganges for two years. He then served on HMS Victory I and HMS Concord as a communications engineer. He was

on HMS Renown for the Royal tour of 1927 with the Duke and Duchess of York, but was invalided out of the Navy after an accident.

In 1928 Fred returned home and started his own electrical engineering and radio firm, working from a bedroom at his mother's antique and furniture shop on the Market Place.

Fred married Edith Clarke in 1934 and with Mrs Clarke's grocers shop now vacant Fred took the opportunity to move into the premises just a few doors down from his mother's shop. Here Fred and Edith set up home together and went on to have two sons, David and Neil - who once young men followed their father into his business.

Fred was contracted by Norwich Corporation to provide electrical, lighting and heating work employing several

electricians. As time progressed the demand for modern products grew and televisions became a big part of Fred's business.

In 1965, Fred purchased two properties in Market Street which were demolished and replaced with his new modern store, which they moved to. The old shop sign from the Market Place shop was cut up and used for shelving at the new shop! Here Fred was able to branch out into white goods like washing machines and fridges.

Fred died on 26th January 1996 aged 87, being reunited with Edith who had passed away in 1984.

Sadly, like many small businesses struggling in the new millennium to compete with online sales, in 2011 Fred's sons and grandson took the hard decision to close the store on 1st October. At the time, Fred's grandson Chris said: "It is gutting, really disappointing. The town is losing a piece of history..." Wymondham really did.



Back in the Market Place once Fred Standley moved out, the shop became a dry cleaners in the late 1960s. Initially, it was operated by Wymondham Laundry of Norwich Road. Names were Bestway Cleaners, Bestway Express and Smart Image. After about 45 years the dry cleaners closed in 2012.

In November 2012 Katherine Ford revitalised the premises and opened

her Mad Hatters Tea Shop, which she originally launched in 2010 in Fairland Street at the rear of a dress and accessories shop.

Katherine and husband Martin moved to Norfolk in 2004 and say they consider Wymondham as their home now. Katherine said: "I love baking and my shop, I love my customers and I love Wymondham. It has been wonderful learning about the history of our shop and incredible to be able to know who has lived and worked here before Martin and me."

The Mad Hatters Tea Shop specialises in homemade scones, cakes, lunches and delicious afternoon teas. The setting is modern but cosy and Katherine and her staff provide a friendly and quick service - and if you lucky enough to get the window seat you have the perfect view of the Market Cross.

This building has been a loving home and business to many families over the centuries - it really is a small shop with a big heart.



An update from



By Victoria Pigg, www.starthrowers.org.uk

Invite to our Supporters:

We would like to invite all our supporters along to our 'Annual Review and Strategic Plan 2022+' meeting at 2pm on Wednesday 16th March via Zoom. Back in February 2020 we delivered our Strategic Plan and priorities for the year ahead, within weeks we were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and on the 16th of March 2020 we closed our doors to the public. During the past two years we have achieved many of the goals we set out in February 2020, and we have adjusted our priorities to best meet the needs of our service users during this unprecedented time. We are very proud to say that Star Throwers has successfully weathered the trials of the past 24 months and we want to share our successes with you and our plans going forwards. Please contact us for a Zoom link: victoria@starthrowers.org.uk.

Challenge events:

We have a couple of exciting challenge events taking place this year. Join us at our annual Skydive Day on Sunday 26th June and take on this amazing challenge whilst raising funds for your local cancer charity. We also have one space left to take part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday 9th October. Please contact us to find out about taking part in these challenge events.

We are currently open for in-person and virtual support and information sessions, to access our services or find out about any of our current opportunities or events please email info@starthrowers.org.uk or call 01953 423304.

Star Throwers Skydive
Sunday 26th June 2022
Jump for Star Throwers in 2022!

Raise a minimum of £315 (and pay a deposit of £50) and your skydive will be FREE!

Have fun and help support people affected by cancer.

Contact us to find out more: 01953 423304 or email: victoria@starthrowers.org.uk

If you are unable to make this date you can book to skydive at other dates throughout the year.

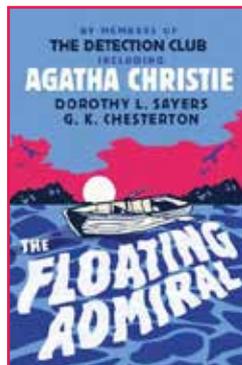


By Freddy Lowe

BOOK REVIEW

The Floating Admiral

By The Detection Club



When I visited my sister a few weeks ago (she is at med school), I remember noticing a game of *Consequences* played with her flatmates (also doing medicine) that had been pinned onto the wall. The protagonist of this story went to the doctor with an ear infection (which later became irrelevant to the story), before being diagnosed with some unrelated rare disease and then being cured. (I think at one point his head fell off and got sewn on again.) I remember playing *Consequences* when I was younger, and easily one of the most charming parts of it is that the

resulting stories are always terrible. Yes, you may get slightly annoyed when the player after you does something bonkers (I once started the story about a fish, and then the next thing I heard was, "the fish soared out of the water and started flying"), but for the most part it's a fun way to blow off steam for 10 minutes. The bits of paper usually end up under your bed never to be seen again, though occasionally some brave group of players (such as my sister and her flatmates) exhibit their story so that the fun occasion can be remembered.

Another such example is *The Floating Admiral*: a literary game of consequences published in 1931 by The Detection Club. 10 authors (Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, and G.K. Chesterton among them no less!) collaborated on a group detective novel, each writing a chapter. Victor L. Whitechurch begins proceedings with our first chapter (entitled "Corpse Ahoy!"), followed by G.D.H. and M. Cole (a husband and wife writing team!), Henry Wade, Agatha Christie, John Rhode, Milward Kennedy, Dorothy L. Sayers, Ronald Knox, Freeman Wills Crofts, Edgar Jepson, Clemence Dane, and then Anthony Berkeley steps in to craft the murder solution. The result is a cheerful and amusing detective story that slowly descends into absolute mayhem. It still makes for a fun reading experience (if you promise not to worry if you lose a thread of the plot here and there).

The true joy of *The Floating Admiral* comes in comparing the styles of the writers. Dorothy L. Sayers's chapter is wonderful, as are those of Canon Victor Whitechurch, Clemence Dane, and Anthony Berkeley. The authors even share what their murder solutions would have been had they had sole authorship, which is particularly thought-provoking.

Some authors' contributions are less strong. One wonders if Agatha Christie's heart was truly in it: her material barely goes on for 10 pages. (Ironic then that her name is emblazoned on the front cover, as she is by far the most famous of the writers.) G.K. Chesterton also stepped in after completion to write a prologue, one that alluded to all the upcoming twists and turns. Regardless of not liking Chesterton much myself, I would advise readers to skip his contribution and come back to it having finished the book, otherwise you'll be confused before you even start.

Whether you love the book or can't make head nor tail of it, one cannot deny the irresistible charm and wit of how *The Floating Admiral* came to be – even if it proves that it is correct for a game of *Consequences* to end up under the bed.

TOTALLY LOCALLY WYMONDHAM

We know that the shops in the high street are one way that Wymondham looks after its people, but who are the people behind the counter? The Totally Locally team are getting to know the people that give our shops the personal touch. How did they get where they are? What's important to them? And what makes someone give up the security of a regular wage in a big company to go it alone doing what they love? Here's your opportunity to find out...

Fiver Fest | Saturday 12th to Saturday 26th March

Start saving up your £5 notes, because Wymondham's local independent shops are getting ready for another Totally Locally Fiver Fest!

During the weeks of 12th to 26th March, independently owned businesses in Wymondham will be offering great deals for only £5, to help you discover the value, expertise, and variety that you get when you buy from a local expert.

Since 2020 Wymondham has been part of the national festival celebrating local independent shopping. The campaign promotes the idea that if every adult in Wymondham spent just £5 a week in independently owned businesses, we would add £3.2 million of additional income to the local economy.

This means more jobs, a vibrant high street, higher house prices, and a great sense of community.

The offers highlight the contribution to

the economy and the social support that local shops and businesses bring, but it's also an opportunity for those businesses to say "Thank you" to their loyal customers who have supported them through the pandemic.

"Fiver Fest happens three times per year," says Tracy Kenny, Totally Locally organiser for Wymondham. "and it is now a big part of our promotions for Wymondham. The independent shops and businesses, and how we all get to know each other in them, are what makes Wymondham special and unique. The community support for local businesses has been amazing during lockdown, but it is easy to slip back into old shopping habits now that things are returning to normal. So this is a little nudge to say 'Our local businesses are still here, we are still serving our community and we appreciate your support. And of course we are great value!'"

For any independent business wishing to participate in the Fiver Fest in Wymondham, please contact totallylocallywym@kettsbooks.co.uk



From my perspective

By Councillor Suzanne Nuri-Nixon

There has been much discussion recently about the next phase of new build houses at the top of Right Up Lane. With over 200 more new homes due to be built, local people have been talking about how the new development will affect the area with the usual comments about lack of infrastructure and amenities.

It is also concerning that a lot of natural landscaping – bushes, hedgerow and trees – have been ripped up by the developers, a move which obviously displaces the habitat of wildlife in the area. Sadly this is not the first time it has happened and I fear it will not be the last.

When I looked into when permissions were obtained to build the next phase, it appears that Outline Planning Permission was granted as long ago as 2012 (though there seems to be talk that it was even further back, in 2008). When plans are submitted, they are first done in this way then subsequent plans add the detail and these are referred to as Reserved Matters.

The problem is that Reserved Matters can change and be tweaked many times before building commences. And as in the case of this particular development, councillors who would ultimately decide on what is permitted, come and go. When this was first voted on for example, only one councillor at District Council voted against.

As well as the loss of natural habitat for wildlife, it is worrying to hear that people who have bought new homes in the area may not have heard about the continuing building. It is proposed a new school will go up in Silfield as well as a care home but a prospective buyer of a new home might be unaware despite the fact that solicitors should advise their clients of this when conveyancing is carried out. It certainly seems to be a case of 'buyer beware'.

There is little current councillors can do to prevent planning permission given years ago. Signed agreements are legally binding between District Council and developers, and the only way to ensure planning is in accordance of submitted plans is to rely on the job done by council planning officers.

But it is the destruction of natural habitat that concerns me the most. As a Silfield resident, I was dismayed when the hedgerow was ripped up along Silfield Road when construction on the Alders/Birchgate estate was started. Given that there is a large green space left there (originally to be sports pitches but I think this idea has now been shelved), the hedgerow could have remained. But it seems it is easier to rip up and replant.

As a member of the Regulation & Planning Policy Committee at District Council, I have repeatedly asked that future developments bear natural habitat in mind and that restrictions are put in place to prevent destruction of established habitat. To date I have been unable to get this included into policy but as long as I am a councillor, will continue to raise my objections.

Like it or not, we do need housing. But there has to be a way to ensure our new estates respect our natural habitats, are more in tune with our local areas and planning permission is more carefully scrutinised to ensure better outcomes for local people.

What's in a photo?

WYMONDHAM SWIMMING POOL

By Philip Yaxley

When Wymondham's first swimming pool was opened by William G. Smith on Saturday 25th July 1931 in Brewery Lane it certainly made a big splash! The townsfolk had seen nothing like it as previously those wanting to bathe had relied on damming the River Tiffey. It was no surprise, therefore, that a large enthusiastic crowd turned up for the official opening, which featured diving, swimming and life-saving displays. A diving display by the Heigham (Norwich) Penguins Swimming Club thrilled the spectators, but it was local boy Alan Cross, who was the first person to enter the pool. Alan, who went on to set up an electrician's business, had made tea for workmen when they were building the bath.

The premises had been the home of Cann's brewery until 1894 and after that for a time it was occupied by S.D. Page & Sons, the

brush makers, but Mr. Smith, the builders and Mr. J.S. Fowler of Wymondham, who was responsible for designs and plans, had done a good job. The conversion resulted in an "up to date" swimming-bath with "all the necessary fittings for high diving and a chute for children." It boasted "well appointed" dressing-rooms having accommodation for 75 persons, together with seven bath rooms and four shower baths, as well as a resident instructor in attendance.

Many local clubs availed themselves of the facility, among them those of the Briton Brush factory, the Co-op (CWS) factory, the Men's Club, the Ex-Servicemen's Club and The Town Club. The Penguins enjoyed a traditional Christmas Day swim and would travel to the pool weekly on a Sunday morning by cycle or motor cycle. They were just one of a number of clubs from further afield who once used the pool, among them being ones from Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

The bath served the town until closure in 1953 and it wasn't until 1999 that the current pool at the leisure centre was opened after the Swym Committee had been fund-raising since 1976.



WHAT CAN I DO TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF BEING GAZUMPED?

Written by Natalie Briggs, Conveyancing Executive, Spire Solicitors LLP

Gazumping occurs when a seller accepts a higher offer on their property after already agreeing verbally a sale with someone else. This usually happens when property prices are increasing, and it is taking longer than usual for the administrative work to occur. It can happen at any time before you have exchanged contracts.

Although gazumping can be considered unfair, it is not illegal. Neither is the opposite, termed gazundering, where the buyer reduces their offer at the last minute.

This is not the first time that gazumping has been a problem for buyers. It first became an issue in the 1980s but has returned due to the demand-driven market we are now experiencing. It is expected this is due not only to stamp duty holidays but also due to people moving away from London to areas such as Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex as a direct result of the pandemic. With more people working from home, many are looking for more space to work flexibly. With around one third of all property sales collapsing because one party pulls out of the transaction, what can you do as a buyer to minimise the risk of being gazumped?

1. Ask the estate agent if they require the seller to reject any further offers

The buyer can ask the estate agent if they include in their terms and conditions that the seller of the property is required to turn down any further offers made after they have accepted an offer.

2. Ask the seller to enter into an exclusivity agreement

The buyer could also ask the seller of the property to agree to an exclusivity agreement fixing the price and preventing any marketing for a certain period up to exchange.

3. Reservation Agreements

Reservation agreements are being trialled and if these are introduced would mean parties would enter into an agreement and place money into a designated account. This money would be lost by the party who decides to withdraw without a valid reason.

4. Home Information Pack

The Home Information Pack is currently being discussed with a modified version being proposed which will shorten the period between exchange and completion.

5. Get insured

If another buyer comes in with a higher offer, there is not much you can do to stop the seller accepting it. However, you can insure yourself against this by taking out 'home buyer protection insurance' which will allow you to claim back some of your conveyancing fees, survey fees and any other costs if the seller accepts another offer.

6. Be prepared

Make sure you have a mortgage agreement in principle in place, a solicitor lined up and all necessary documents prepared and at hand. Being unprepared can cause unnecessary delays increasing the risk of another buyer coming in with a higher offer.

There may be reasons for delays outside of your control such as illness.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic there are provisions in place that protect the parties in the case of a "coronavirus event" preventing either side from completing on the transaction.

Covid-19 rider clause for completion date

These clauses ensure that the parties are not in breach of contract if an event set out below occurs causing delay:

- The buyer or seller is complying with government guidelines such as lockdown or self-isolation
- Essential service suppliers such as removal services are complying with government guidelines or self-isolation
- The UK financial system fails to deliver transfer of monies to the seller on completion
- Unable to get witnesses to sign essential documents due to government guidelines
- Failure to deliver funds to the buyer's conveyancer as a result of issues relating to Coronavirus

Both parties will then agree upon a new completion date.

It is important to note that the seller and buyer must minimise the extent of any delay arising due to the events above by pursuing a reasonable course of action to achieve the desired result.

What to do if you are gazumped

If you have done everything you can to avoid being gazumped and still find out that a higher offer has been made to the seller, then you could consider making a counteroffer. However, it is important to seriously consider whether you can afford to do so. Be careful not to make a reckless decision in the heat of the moment.

If you are unable to make a higher offer, then you can highlight everything about yourself as a buyer that works in your favour. For example, if you are a first-time buyer with no chain or are completely flexible on the moving date, this may be more important to the seller than a higher offer.

If you would like to discuss any points in this article further or are looking for independent advice, please contact Spire Solicitors LLP on 01953 606351.



WHAT'S ON?

Friday 25th February

Bingo Night

7pm, Wymondham Town Football Club
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

Saturday 26th February

Men's First team v North Walsham
2.30pm kick off, Wymondham Town FC
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

An Evening With Jacqui Cann
7.30pm, Wymondham Town Football Club
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

The Hedge At Home
8.15pm, by Rob Duhig
www.facebook.com/thehedgeathome

Sunday 27th February

Alive Church Sunday Service
10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wymondham

Sunday Service
10.30am, Wymondham Baptist Church
www.wymondhambaptist.org.uk

Sunday Service
10.30am, Hope Community Church
www.hopecommunitychurch.co.uk

Church Service
10.30am, Wymondham Methodist Church
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com

Sunday Service
11am, Wymondham Abbey
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Life and Lunch
11.30am, stArt Studio. Tickets £28
www.start-studio.co.uk/service-page/life-and-lunch

Members' Open the Box Draw
3pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Monday 28th February

Pabulum Café Monday-Monday Club
10am to 12noon, Fairland Church Centre
www.wymondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Tuesday 1st March

Wymondham Methodist Church Coffee Morning
10am to 12noon, Town Green Centre
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com

Centering Presence
10.30am, Wymondham Abbey and online
parishoffice@wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Hygge for high school aged people
2pm to 5pm, Wymondham Abbey
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Wymondham Ukulele Group
7.30pm to 9.30pm, The White Hart
www.wymondhamukulelegroup.com

Wednesday 2nd March

Wymondham Art Society Meeting, with Brin Edwards
7.15pm, RC Church Hall. Members free, guests £5
www.wymondhamart.org

Thursday 3rd March

Wymondham u3a Coffee Morning
10am, Central Hall
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/home>

Friday 4th March

Pabulum Café
10am to 1pm, Fairland Church Centre
www.wymondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Bingo Night
7pm for 8pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Disco & Karaoke Night
8pm, The Robert Kett
www.facebook.com/PubRobertKett

Saturday 5th March

Lego Club
10.30am to 11.30am, Wymondham Library. For ages five to 11, numbers limited
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Ska Souls
8pm, Ex-Services Social Club. Members free, guests £2
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

5 Year Anniversary Party
9pm, Wymondham Sports Bar
www.facebook.com/events/1119709382117784

Sunday 6th March

Alive Church Sunday Service
10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wymondham

Sunday Service
10.30am, Wymondham Baptist Church
www.wymondhambaptist.org.uk

Sunday Service
10.30am, Hope Community Church
www.hopecommunitychurch.co.uk

Church Service
10.30am, Wymondham Methodist Church
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com

Sunday Service
11am, Wymondham Abbey
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Members' Open the Box Draw
3pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

WTFC Quiz
8pm, Wymondham Town Football Club
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

Monday 7th March

Pabulum Café Monday-Monday Club
10am to 12noon, Fairland Church Centre
www.wymondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk



MARKETS

Every Friday

Charter Market
8am to 5pm, Market Place
01953 603302

Country Market
10.30am to 12.30pm,
Wymondham Library

Third Saturday (19th March)

Farmers' Market
9am to 1pm, Market Place
01953 603302

Tuesday 8th March

Wyomondham Methodist Church Coffee Morning
10am to 12noon, Town Green Centre
www.wyomondhammethodistchurch.com

Centering Presence
10.30am, Wyomondham Abbey and online
parishoffice@wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

The Lizard - Meadow & Woodland Management
10.30am to 4pm, The Lizard
www.facebook.com/events/201486932097626

Hygge for high school aged people
2pm to 5pm, Wyomondham Abbey
www.wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Thursday 10th March

Wyomondham u3a Coffee Morning
10am, Central Hall
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wyomondham/home>

Ugandan Mountain Gorillas by Mike Harvey - a talk for Wyomondham Nature Group (WyNG)
7.30pm, Town Green Community Centre.
Tickets £2
www.facebook.com/WyomondhamNatureGroup

Wyomondham Ukulele Group
7.30pm to 9.30pm, The Feathers
www.wyomondhamukulelegroup.com

Friday 11th March

Pabulum Café
10am to 1pm, Fairland Church Centre
www.wyomondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Bingo Night
7.15pm, Wyomondham Town Football Club
www.wyomondhamtownfc.co.uk

Saturday 12th March

Lego Club
10.30am to 11.30am, Wyomondham Library.
For ages five to 11, numbers limited
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Drag Bingo
7pm, Wyomondham Town Football Club
www.wyomondhamtownfc.co.uk

Horsereading Night
7.30pm, Ex-Services Social Club, Members' Bar
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Boogie Nights 70s/80s Night
8pm, Ex-Services Social Club, Regal Lounge
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

The Hedge At Home
8.15pm, by Rob Duhig
www.facebook.com/thehedgeathome

Evening Of Mediumship with Nevaeh
Psychic Nights
8.30pm, Morley Village & Sports Hall. Tickets £10
www.facebook.com/events/627506295299068

Sunday 13th March

Alive Church Sunday Service
10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wyomondham

Sunday Service
10.30am, Wyomondham Baptist Church
www.wyomondhambaptist.org.uk

Sunday Service
10.30am, Hope Community Church
www.hopecommunitychurch.co.uk

Church Service
10.30am, Wyomondham Methodist Church
www.wyomondhammethodistchurch.com

Sunday Service
11am, Wyomondham Abbey
www.wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Members' Open the Box Draw
3pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Monday 14th March

Pabulum Café Monday-Monday Club
10am to 12noon, Fairland Church Centre
www.wyomondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Tuesday 15th March

Wyomondham Methodist Church Coffee Morning
10am to 12noon, Town Green Centre
www.wyomondhammethodistchurch.com

Centering Presence
10.30am, Wyomondham Abbey and online
parishoffice@wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Hygge for high school aged people
2pm to 5pm, Wyomondham Abbey
www.wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Wyomondham Ukulele Group
7.30pm to 9.30pm, The White Hart
www.wyomondhamukulelegroup.com

Thursday 17th March

Wyomondham u3a Coffee Morning
10am, Central Hall
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wyomondham/home>

Friday 18th March

Pabulum Café
10am to 1pm, Fairland Church Centre
www.wyomondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Saturday 19th March

Pop Up Craft Sale
10am to 4pm, Big C Furniture and Craft Shop
www.big-c.co.uk/our-shops/shop/wyomondham-craft-supplies-shop

Lego Club
10.30am to 11.30am, Wyomondham Library.
For ages five to 11, numbers limited
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Jokers Wild
8pm, The Robert Kett
www.facebook.com/PubRobertKett

Sunday 20th March

Alive Church Sunday Service
10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wyomondham

Sunday Service
10.30am, Wyomondham Baptist Church
www.wyomondhambaptist.org.uk

Sunday Service
10.30am, Hope Community Church
www.hopecommunitychurch.co.uk

Church Service
10.30am, Wyomondham Methodist Church
www.wyomondhammethodistchurch.com

Sunday Service
11am, Wyomondham Abbey
www.wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Members' Open the Box Draw
3pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

WTFC Quiz
8pm, Wyomondham Town Football Club
www.wyomondhamtownfc.co.uk

Monday 21st March

Pabulum Café Monday-Monday Club
10am to 12noon, Fairland Church Centre
www.wyomondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Wyomondham Garden Club – Talk on 'Gardens for Us and Them' by Dr Ian Bedford, formerly of the John Innes Centre
7.30pm, Town Green Centre. Members Free, guests £4.
wyomondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

Tuesday 22nd March

Wyomondham Methodist Church Coffee Morning
10am to 12noon, Town Green Centre
www.wyomondhammethodistchurch.com

Centering Presence
10.30am, Wyomondham Abbey and online
parishoffice@wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

Hygge for high school aged people
2pm to 5pm, Wyomondham Abbey
www.wyomondhamabbey.org.uk

WHAT'S ON, continued...

Thursday 24th March

Wymondham u3a Coffee Morning
10am, Central Hall
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/home>

Talk on William of Norwich, by Adrian O'Dell
- a talk for Wymondham Heritage Society
7.30pm, Fairland Hall
www.wymondhamheritagemuseum.co.uk

Wymondham Ukulele Group
7.30pm to 9.30pm, The Feathers
www.wymondhamukulelegroup.com

Friday 25th March

Pabulum Café
10am to 1pm, Fairland Church Centre
www.wymondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Bingo Night
7.15pm, Wymondham Town Football Club
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

Author Event with Zoe Somerville, by Kett's Books
7pm, Wymondham Baptist Church. Tickets £8.99 including a copy of the book 01953 603663

Saturday 26th March

Lego Club
10.30am to 11.30am, Wymondham Library.

For ages five to 11, numbers limited
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

Sunday 27th March

Alive Church Sunday Service
10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wymondham

Sunday Service
10.30am, Wymondham Baptist Church
www.wymondhambaptist.org.uk

Sunday Service
10.30am, Hope Community Church
www.hopcommunitychurch.co.uk

Church Service
10.30am, Wymondham Methodist Church
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com

Sunday Service
11am, Wymondham Abbey
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Members' Open the Box Draw
3pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Superleague Darts
5.30pm, Wymondham Town Football Club
www.wymondhamtownfc.co.uk

Quiz Night
7.30pm, Ex-Services Social Club

www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Monday 28th March

Pabulum Café Monday-Monday Club
10am to 12noon, Fairland Church Centre
www.wymondham-dementia-support-group.org.uk

Tuesday 29th March

Wymondham Methodist Church Coffee Morning
10am to 12noon, Town Green Centre
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com

Centering Presence
10.30am, Wymondham Abbey and online
parishoffice@wymondhamabbey.org.uk

The Lizard - Meadow & Woodland Management
10.30am to 4pm, The Lizard
www.facebook.com/events/201486932097626

Hygge for high school aged people
2pm to 5pm, Wymondham Abbey
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Thursday 31st March

Wymondham u3a Coffee Morning
10am, Central Hall
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wymondham/home>



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